

# Emoji Data Dashboard

Use the Emoji Reflection activity (under Creating the Learning Environment) to track changes over time by creating a data dashboard. At the individual level, the Emoji Reflection activity is a tool for personal growth. At the program-level, it is well-suited for youth-directed measurement and continuous improvement. There are no-tech and low-tech options for creating a data dashboard.

## Why This Matters

- Youth are often the subject of evaluation, but don't get a voice in making meaning of the data. When youth are empowered to be at the center of measurement and meaning-making, programs give them voice and influence about how data is used.
- Tracking how youth perceive their SEL development gives program staff important insights into how staff actions influence youth outcomes.
- The Emoji Reflection activity is a powerful reflection tool AND easily provides program-level data with minimal administrative work.

## Getting Started

- Pick whether you are going to use the No-Tech Dashboard or the Low-Tech Excel Dashboard. The No-Tech Dashboard is ideal for 10 or fewer youth. The Low-Tech Excel Dashboard is ideal for groups with more than 10 youth or for programs that want to compare data across groups, reflection prompts, or program cycles.
- Materials and time vary depending on group size and type of dashboard.

## How To Do It

### No-Tech Dashboard

- 1) Ideal for groups with 10 or fewer youth. If you have a group larger than 10, break them into smaller groups to track their Emoji responses.
- 2) Start tracking group responses after you have been using the Emoji reflection for at least 3 weeks.
- 3) Create a large poster or wall space for each group that can accommodate an enlarged version of the dashboard template. Be prepared to keep this poster for the duration of the project (or at least the weeks that you plan to use the Emoji reflection).
- 4) Invite youth to transfer their individual Emoji responses from the previous weeks to the group dashboard. Have youth draw in their Emoji or pre-draw Emoji and have youth color in their response.
- 5) Update the dashboard at least every other week. A dashboard is only useful if it is responsive and accurate.
- 6) Gather the group of youth and staff together every 3-4 weeks to discuss the data.

### Low-Tech Excel Dashboard

- 1) Ideal for groups with more than 10 youth or for programs that want to compare data across groups, reflection prompts, or program cycles.
- 2) Download the Excel-based template (available online).
- 3) Watch the interactive tutorial (available online) for step-by-step instructions.

For each type of dashboard, display the poster graph or the Excel graph so that everyone can look at the group data, and make sure that everyone has their individual Emoji reflection available. Use the following conversation starters to discuss the dashboard:

- For each week, quickly identify as a group which Emoji got the most and fewest responses.
- Which weeks did your response match up with the most frequent response on the group graph?

## Emoji Data Dashboard

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- What stands out to you about the group graph?
- Do any of the weeks surprise you?
- What was happening in the project/program/group each week?
- Why do you think so many people chose X response for this particular week?
- What changes should we consider based on this information?
- How do we define “success” for this particular skill (or anchor statement)? Is there a “best” Emoji response? This is a good opportunity to introduce the idea that “success” might be about getting better at reflecting or building awareness, rather than answering in a specific way.

### Take It Further

- Continue the conversation with your staff team. Reflect on staff actions, programmatic choices, and youth dynamics. Are there any youth that need additional support? Is there anything that staff should modify in order to better support youths' social and emotional growth, as they are reporting it? If you decide to make changes, note the specific change and date on your dashboard or in program notes. After a few weeks evaluate if those changes had the desired effect.
- Once you've finished the cycle of using Emoji Reflection, share the story of how youth used reflective measurement to track change over time and make programmatic improvements.